

# COVID-19

## Return to School Update

### 8/12/2020

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[WeArePublicHealth.org](http://WeArePublicHealth.org) [twitter.com/Maricopahealth](https://twitter.com/Maricopahealth) [facebook.com/MCDPH](https://facebook.com/MCDPH)

# Your Questions



- Re-opening benchmarks and metrics
- Symptoms at school
- Close contacts
- Isolation space challenges
- Mask refusals
- Medically fragile kids

# Where to Find Previously Covered Return to School Information



- Previous Webinars and Slides can be found on the Maricopa County Public Health website along with updated guidance

MARICOPA COUNTY

I Want To...

Services

Departments

## EDUCATION, CHILD CARE AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Schools

Child Care Centers

School Guidance

Youth Programs and Camps

Many parents and school officials have expressed various concerns about school closures due to COVID-19. From past experience, we know that students whose school is closed tend to spend time together in other areas during the times they would normally be in school. This does not decrease the risk of spread of disease, so it's important parents and students are [informed how to stay protected](#) and adhere to community-wide recommendations to stay home, reduce non-essential outings, and avoid gatherings of 10 or more.

The Arizona Department of Education recently released its Guidance for Families and Educators for the Re-opening of Schools. Please [see the site](#) for the most up-to-date guidance and other resources for Arizona's public district and charter schools as they navigate COVID-19 response.

### Planning for Schools Reopening

#### Guidance Documents

- [Risk Decisions: Full Color, Black and White](#) (PDF - Rev. 07/27/20)
- [COVID-19 Isolation Guidance and Algorithm \(En Español\)](#) (PDF - Rev. 07/23/20)
- [Face coverings in schools](#) (PDF - Rev. 07/22/2020)
- [Physical distancing in schools](#) (PDF - Rev. 07/22/2020)

#### Illness at School and Reporting COVID-19 Disease

- [Schools Reporting Form](#) (Fillable PDF - Rev. 07/27/20)
- [Schools Reporting Line List](#) (Excel - Rev. 07/27/20)

#### Sample Communications

- COMING SOON - Sample School Exposure Letter

#### Webinars for Schools

Join us every Wednesday for an informational call on COVID-19 and Maricopa County Department of Public Health's response to this ongoing public health emergency. Each webinar includes a limited amount of time for questions and answers.

<https://www.maricopa.gov/5493/Education-Child-Care-and-Youth-Activitie#schools>

*Guidance*

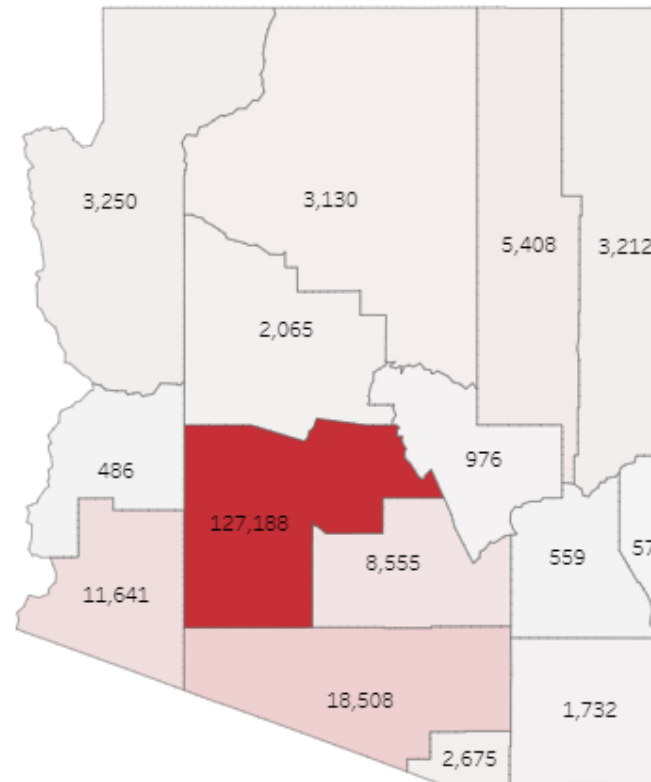
*Webinars and slides*

# COVID-19 in Arizona

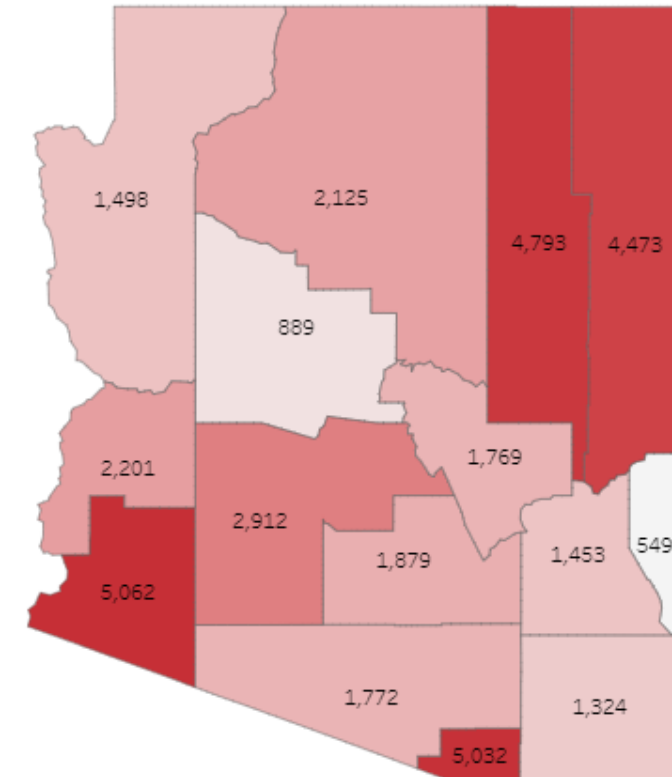


- 189,443 cases
  - Confirmed and probable
- 4,3743 deaths

Case Counts



Case Rates  
per 100,000 population



## National Data from CDC

TOTAL CASES  
**5,064,171**

40,522 New Cases\*

TOTAL DEATHS  
**162,407**

565 New Deaths\*

\*Compared to yesterday's data

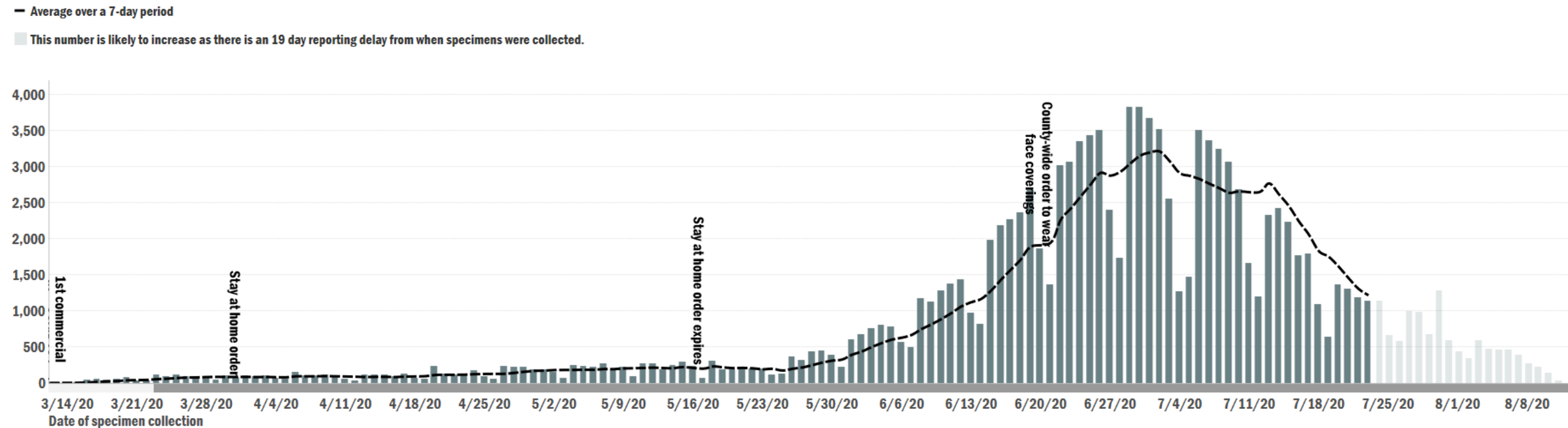
[About the Data](#)

Data updated: 8/12/20

# COVID-19 in Maricopa County



- 126,467 cases in Maricopa with 427 reported in the last 24 hours
- 2,393 (2%) deaths

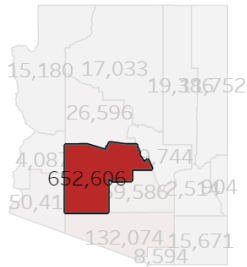


# Lab Testing Data – Maricopa County

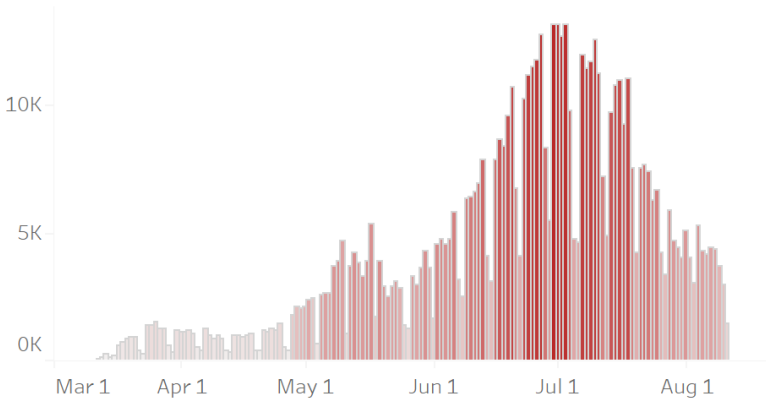


PCR tests completed for COVID-19	PCR tests reported yesterday in Arizona	Total % Positive COVID-19 PCR Tests
652,606	3,969	15.2%

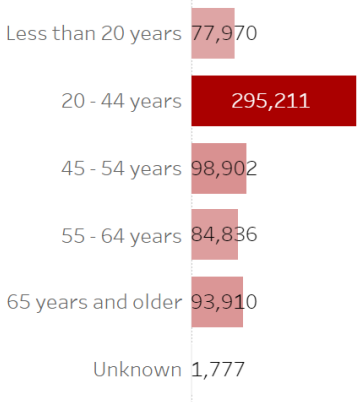
PCR tests by county  
Select a county to filter the data.



PCR tests by date of collection

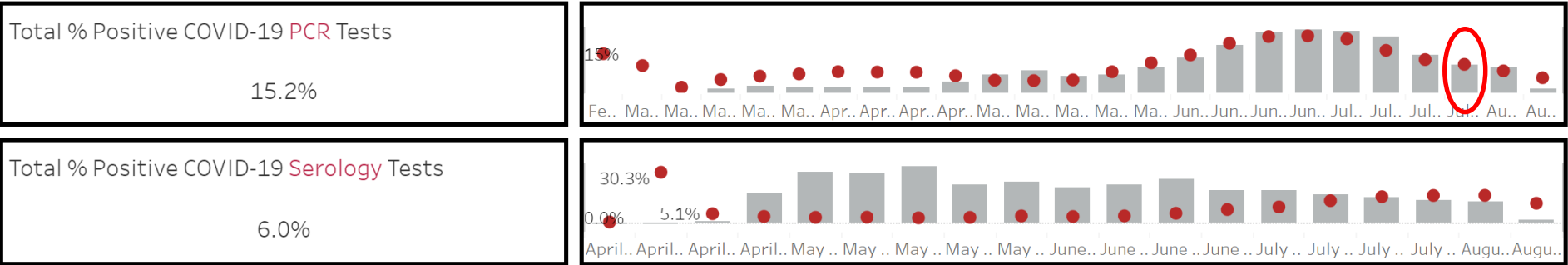


PCR Testing by Age Group



COVID-19 tests completed and percent positive by week

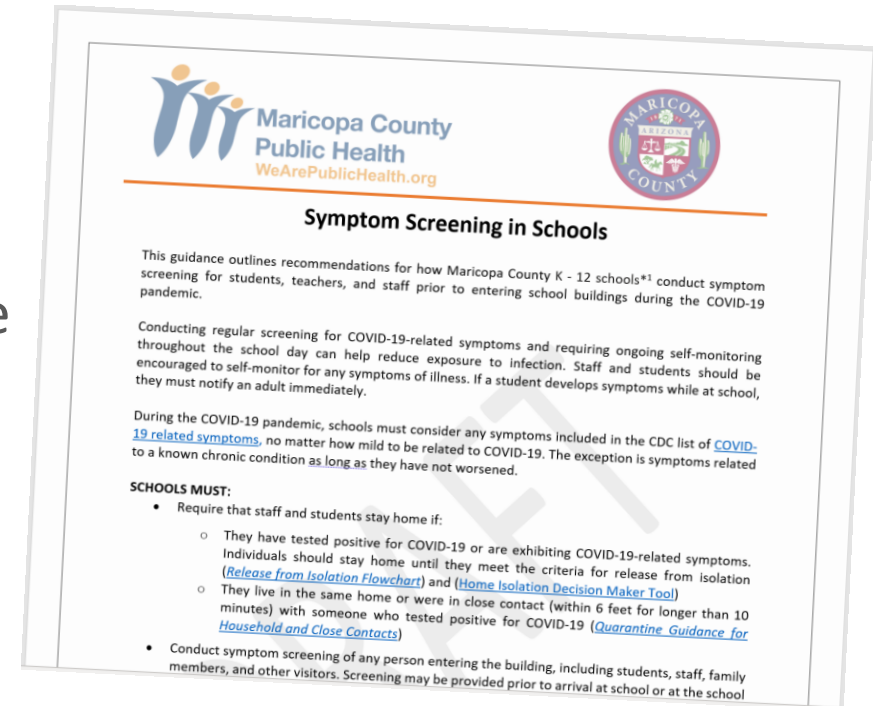
Percent positive is defined as number of people with a positive test result, reported electronically out of all people with COVID-19 testing reported electronically completed in AZ.



# NEW! Symptom Screening Guidance



- Recommendations for screening for symptoms prior to entering the facility
- Must
  - Require students and staff stay home if
    - COVID test positive or symptomatic
    - Close contact with someone who tested positive
  - Screen for symptoms
- May
  - Screen for fever



# Sample Screening Tools



## ATTACHMENT 1: Symptom Screening Checklist: Adult Reporting for Student

The person conducting screenings should maintain a six-foot distance when asking questions. Ask the person dropping off the child the following questions before entering the facility. If no adult is accompanying the child during drop-off, utilize best judgment if the child can respond on their own.

### SAMPLE

ANYONE SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 OR WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19 SHOULD NOT BE AT SCHOOL.

1. Since they were last at school, have any of the children you are dropping off been diagnosed with COVID-19?

- ☐ YES  
☐ NO

If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test, their symptoms, or is showing symptoms without a COVID-19 test, they should not be at school and should stay home until they meet the criteria below.

2. Have any of the children you are dropping off had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes) with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?

- ☐ YES → The child should not be at school.  
☐ NO → Proceed to Question 3

3. Do any of the children you are dropping off have any of these symptoms? Note, symptoms related to a known chronic condition that are unchanged should not be considered reason to exclude.

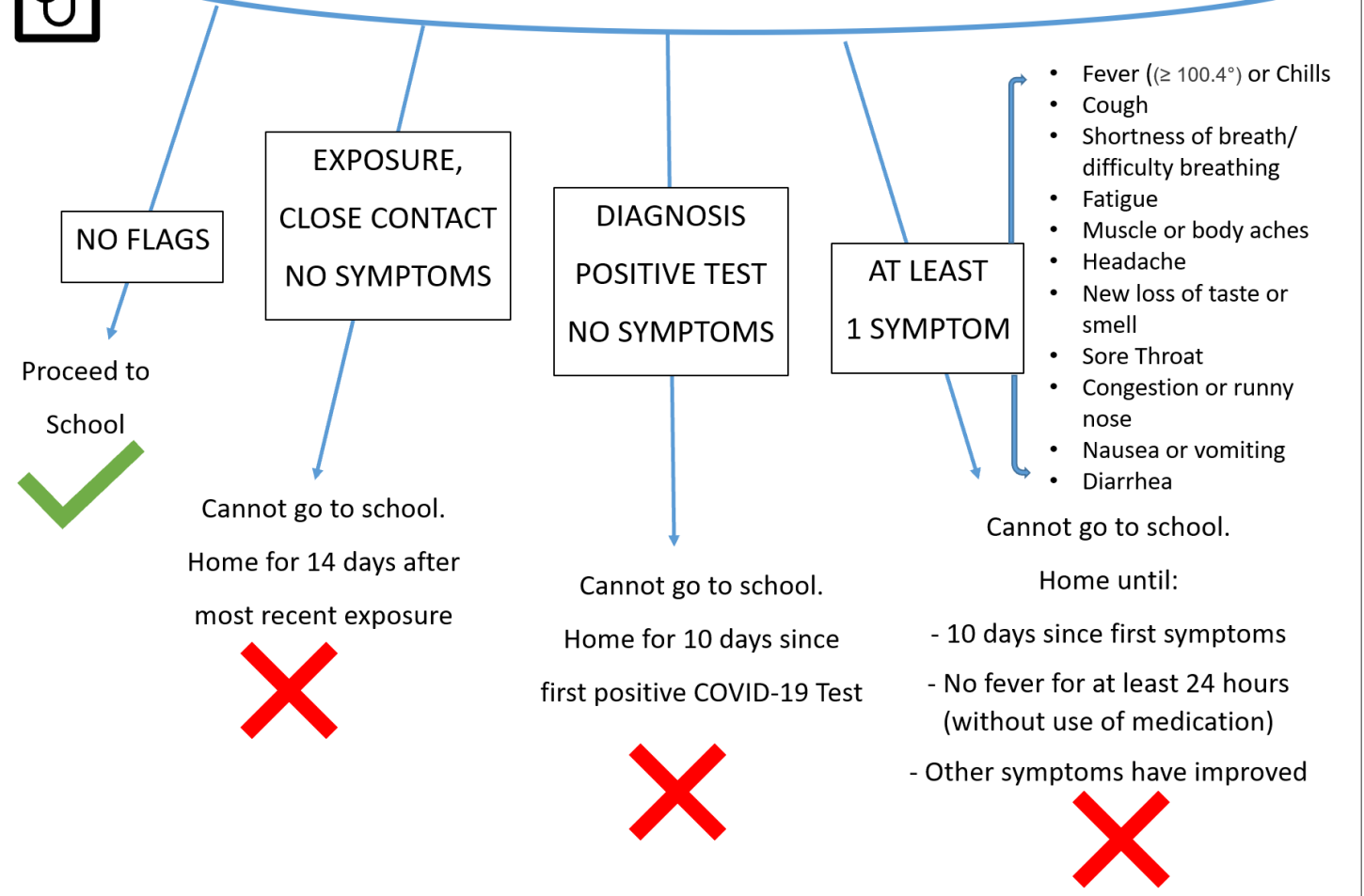
- ☐ Fever ( $\geq 100.4^\circ$ ) or chills  
☐ Cough  
☐ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing  
☐ Fatigue  
☐ Muscle or body aches  
☐ Headache  
☐ New loss of taste or smell  
☐ Sore Throat  
☐ Congestion or runny nose  
☐ Nausea or vomiting  
☐ Diarrhea

If a child has any of these symptoms, they should go home, stay away from other people, and the family should contact the child's healthcare provider.

## ATTACHMENT 3: Screening Flow Chart




### Screen for COVID-19





# How long should you isolate at home?



 **Maricopa County  
Public Health**  
WeArePublicHealth.org

English ▾

How Long Should I Isolate at Home if I Might Have COVID-19?

It can be confusing to know how long you should isolate at home. The Maricopa County Department of Public Health recommendations for how long to isolate aligns with recommendations from CDC and the Arizona Department of Health Services.

The length of time you should isolation at home depends on if you have:

- **Been tested** for COVID-19, what **type of test** was done, and what the **result of the test** was;
- Had any **symptoms** consistent with COVID-19;
- Been admitted to an **Intensive Care Unit (ICU)** for your illness; and
- If you are **severely immunocompromised**.

You can use this questionnaire to help determine how long you should isolate at home. No personal information is required.

→

[https://maricopasneb.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3wLf31Anb2yNAUZ](https://maricopasneb.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3wLf31Anb2yNAUZ)

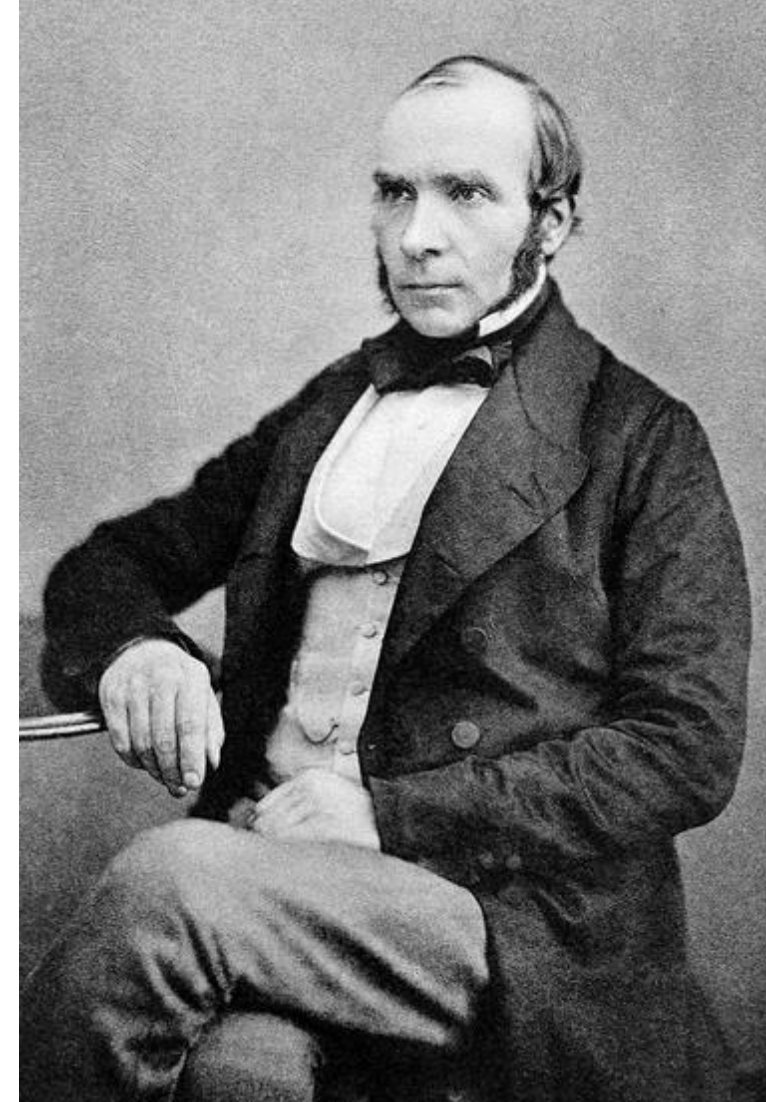
## Recent Updates

- It can be confusing to know how long you should isolate at home after testing positive for COVID-19. Check out our [home isolation decision-maker tool](#) to help you know when it's safe to be around others.
- We recently launched a new COVID-19 dashboard to improve data visualization and increase staff efficiency. You can [view archived reports prior to July 1 here](#).

# A message from our epidemiologists



- How you can help provide accurate data:
  - Filling out data electronically
  - Writing legibly if reporting forms are filled out by hand
  - Including full names & dates of birth
    - critical for linking to supportive lab results
  - Fill out all portions of report forms
    - Demographics
    - Contact information



# More from our epidemiologists



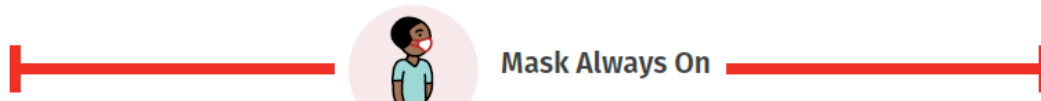
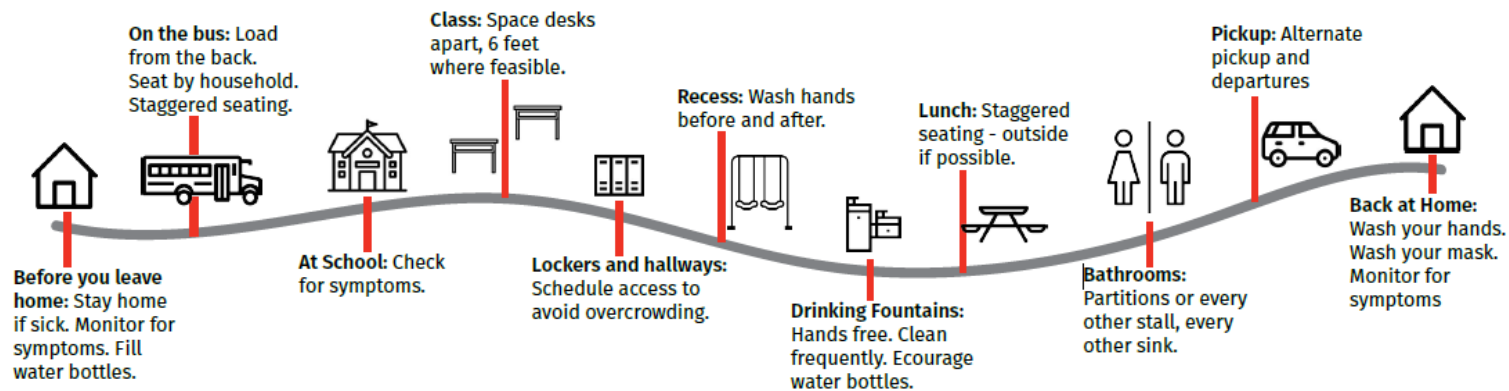
- [FERPA and COVID-19](#)
- [HIPAA and COVID-19](#)
- Public Health is privileged to special exceptions in order to conduct investigations that will yield important information
- Information = Action



# Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction



- Benchmarks
- Responding to COVID-19 in Schools
- Working towards opening a hybrid structure of In-Person learning



## Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

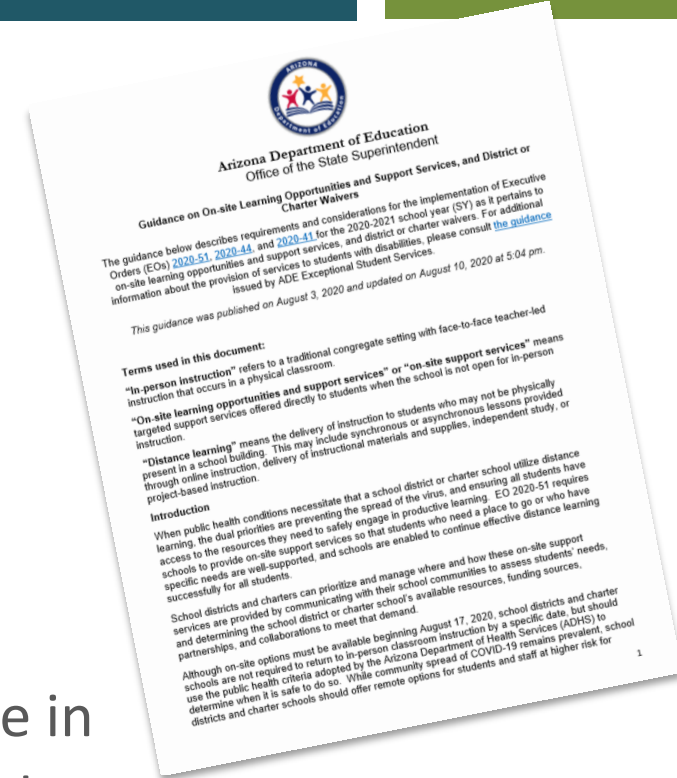
August 6, 2020

<https://azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-safely-return-to-in-person-instruction.pdf>

# ADE – Guidance on On-Site Learning Opportunities and Support Services



- District or Charter Waivers
  - Definition of “Outbreak”
    - 2 or more lab-confirmed cases among students or staff:
      - With onsets within a 14-day period
      - Epidemiologically linked
      - Do not share a household
      - Not identified as close contacts with each other in another setting
    - Can also be identified by Public Health as a localized increase in COVID-19 incidence in a defined community within the county requiring the closure of the charter school or school district
  - Waiver is only required and permitted if all on-site services will cease due to an outbreak



<https://files.constantcontact.com/cbebfe4e101/14bf65f4-dabb-4782-95c4-1155191ca32c.pdf>

# ADHS Benchmarks for Schools

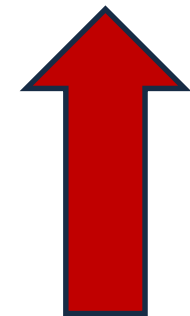


The ADHS further defines community spread levels with the thresholds outlined below. These thresholds are consistent with the national standards set by the Coronavirus Task Force.

Benchmarks	Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases	<10 cases/100,000	10-100 cases/100,000	>100 cases/100,000
Percent Positivity	<5%	5-10%	>10%
COVID-like Illness	<5%	5-10%	>10%

Source:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-safely-return-to-in-person-instruction.pdf>



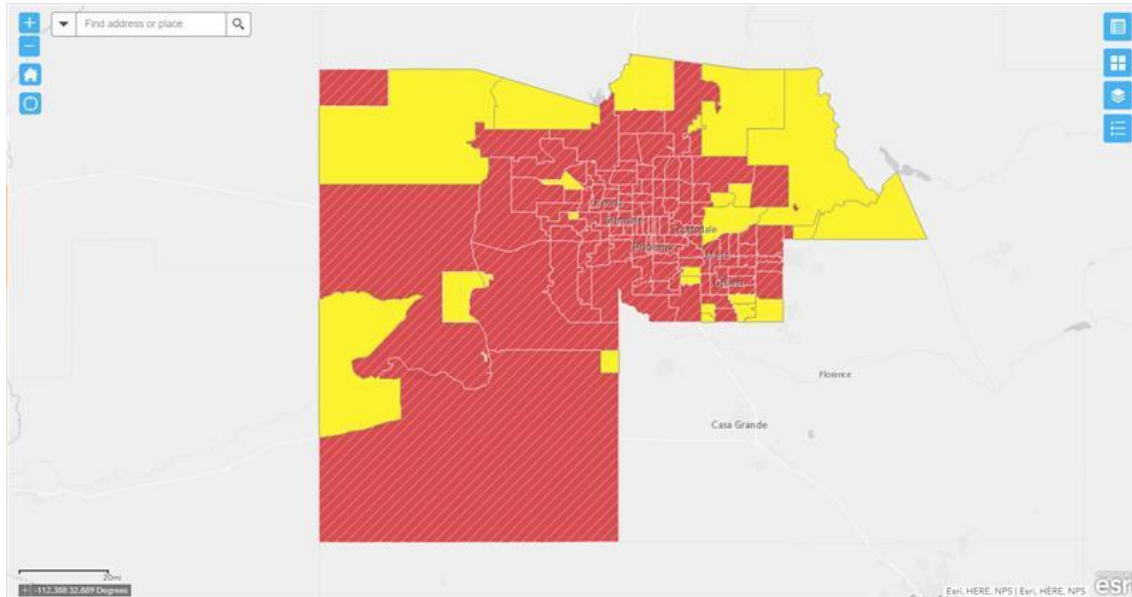
8/12/2020



# MCDPH Data Dashboard



\*This is what the ZIP code looks like



\*The color shown will be the highest for all three metrics

\*Data will include current and prior week data

Select “**View**” on the right:

Current:  
% Positivity  
Case Rate  
COVID-19 Like Illness Rate

Previous Week:  
% Positivity  
Case Rate  
COVID-19 Like Illness Rate

VIEW

High School District

Elementary School District

Unified School District

City

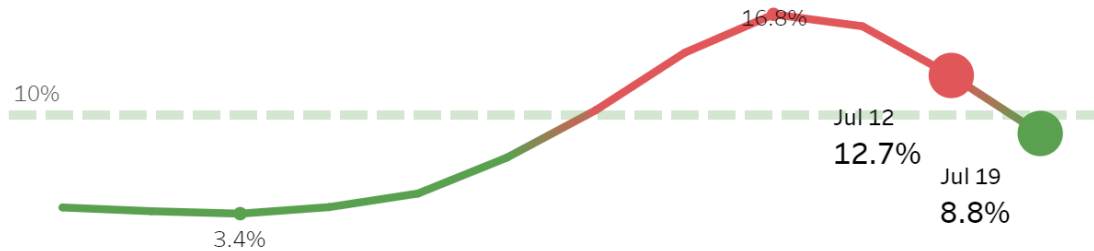
ZIP Code

# County-wide-only metrics




## COVID-like illness

- 3)  Two consecutive weeks with hospital visits for COVID-like illnesses in the region below 10%: **Benchmark Not Met**



## Decrease in case counts

- 1)  Decline in cases or less than 100 cases per 100,000 individuals for two consecutive weeks: **Benchmark Met**





# Input Needed! Antigen Testing



- Antigen test looks for protein fragments
- Positive results are accurate
- Negative results
  - Do not rule out infection
  - If suspicion of COVID-19, should be confirmed by PCR
  - Should be considered in the context of a person's recent exposures and other factors

# Input Needed! Antigen Testing



- We need your input –Sofia 2 SARS Antigen Test Machine
- IF provided to district or charter or private school
- CONDITIONS FOR USE
  - To test students if exposed to a case
  - To offer voluntary testing to staff every 2 weeks
- WOULD REQUIRE recipients to
  - Identify qualified staff who can implement the testing
  - Maintain the machine
  - Simultaneously test for flu

# Student/Parent Resource



## 10 Things You Can Do To Prepare For Returning Back To School

### 1 Practice good hand hygiene



Teach your child to sing their ABCs or have them count for at least 20 seconds ensuring they wash, front, back and in-between their fingers.

### 2 Practice wearing face coverings



Throughout the day your child may need to wear a face covering on the bus and upon entering school. Teach them not to touch the inside of their face covering when removing it.

### 3 Practice maintaining 6 feet of distance



Measure the distance on the floor. Consider temporarily laying pieces of paper down for a visual reference.

### 4 Purchase a thermometer



Check your child's temperature every morning. If it's 100.4 or higher, they must stay home until fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication). If they develop a fever (or other symptoms) at school, they will be required to remain out of school for at least 24 hours.

### 5 Have a supply of face coverings



When possible, face coverings should only be used once and then washed. Consider making or buying multiple masks to give you time to wash between use.

### 6 Update immunizations and physical exams



Up-to-date immunizations are required for school, and sports physicals may be needed. Well care visits are important to a child's health. Immunizations can also be obtained at your local Public Health Dept.

### 7 Consider aerosolized medicine alternatives for asthma



Inhalers with a chamber are preferred over nebulizers for administering in school. Speak with your pediatrician for equipment options and updates to your Asthma Action Plan.

### 8 Purchase a reusable water bottle



Water fountains may not be readily available. Make sure your child has a reusable water bottle to bring to school, and instruct them not to share it with others. Water bottles and caps should be washed daily in warm soapy water, rinsed, and left to air dry upside down or run through the dishwasher.

### 9 Verify/update emergency contacts



If your child presents with COVID-like symptoms, they will be placed in a room and will need to be picked up immediately. Please ensure a contact can be reached at any given time.

### 10 Stay informed with reliable sources



Stay up-to-date on COVID-19 news using from reliable sources such as the CDC, Arizona Department of Health Services, Maricopa County Department of Public Health and your district or school websites.

# Numbers are improving – COVID-19 is still among us!



## #MaskUpAz

Reducing the risk of spread



**LOWEST  
RISK**



**HIGHER  
RISK**



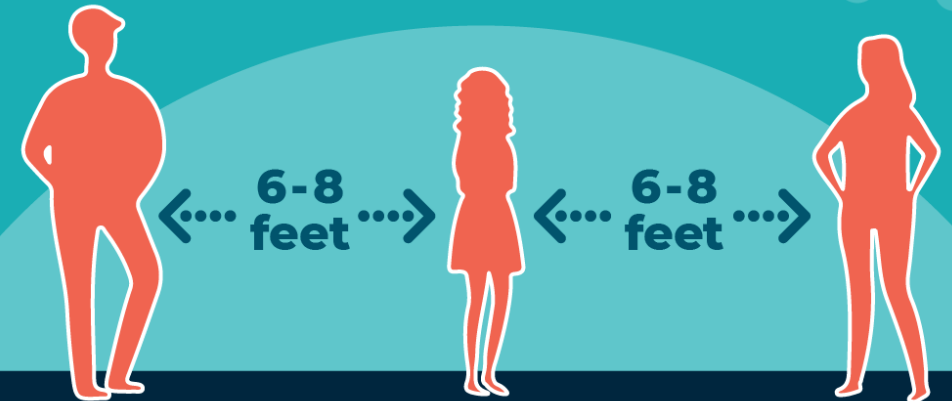
**HIGHEST  
RISK**



**MY MASK PROTECTS YOU, and  
YOUR MASK PROTECTS ME.**

## BE SMART STAY APART

Help stop the spread of COVID-19 by **physical distancing**. Keep at least **6 to 8 feet** between yourself and others.



INFORMATION & UPDATES:  
[MARICOPA.GOV/COVID19](https://maricopa.gov/covid19)



# Coming Soon...



- Cafeterias and Meal Services
- Transportation
- Distinction between different test types
- More on cleaning/disinfecting

# Questions we cannot answer



- "What is legally allowable..."
- Questions related to school finances
- Questions related to attendance numbers
- Questions related to families changing enrollment

# Questions?



- Please visit [Maricopa.gov/coronavirus](https://maricopa.gov/coronavirus)
- [SchoolHealth@maricopa.gov](mailto:SchoolHealth@maricopa.gov)
  - (602)-506-6767
  - This webinar will be posted to our website

